

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00869 101521Z

60

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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R 101445Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5532

UNCLAS VALLETTA 00869

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGR, MT

SUBJ: GOM REQUEST ANTHURIUM SAMPLES

FOR AGRICULTURE

1. GOM INTERESTED IN EXPERIMENTING WITH GROWTH OF ORNAMENTAL FLOWER, ANTHURIUM, FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE EXPORT TO COMMON MARKET. ALTHOUGH THE NATURAL CONDITIONS ARE NOT SUITABLE IN MALTA, GOM AGRICULTURE ADVISER GEORGE W. FORD BELEIVES NEAR DESIRABLE CONDITIONS COULD BE DEVELOPED WITHIN GLASS HOUSES. THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF ANTHURIUMS (A) LEAFY SORT WHICH NOT OF INTEREST, AND (B) LARGE RED FLOWER SORT WITH BRIGHT YELLOW STAMEN. LATTER IS ONE WHICH GOM CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY VARIETIES SUCH AS ANTHURIUM ANDRACANUM, ANTHURIUM FLAMINGO OR ANTHURIUM SCHERCORIANNA. GOM UNDERSTANDS HAWAII IS ONE OF AREAS WHERE COMMERCIAL GROWTH OF ANTHURIUM HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED.

2. WITH VIEW TOWARD EXPERIMENTAL PLANTING THIS FALL GOM HAS INQUIRED REGARDING (A) POSSIBLE SOURCES OF HAWAIIAN OR FLORIDIAN SAMPLE ROOTS CLUMPS; (B) COST INVOLVED; AND (C) TECHNICAL ADVICE ON VARIETIES MOST LIKELY TO TAKE HOLD IN MALTA. AT SOME FUTURE DATE, DEPENDING ON SUCCESS OF EXPERIMENT, GOM WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN ADVICE ON PACKAGEING FOR EXPORT.

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3. PLEASE ADVISE.GETZ

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